

between their view and the one that accepts every word in the Textus Receptus, based largely on Erasmus's comparison of the few late manuscripts that he possessed.

I do not know of any case where the omission of words that most present-day scholars think were erroneously inserted in the later manuscripts makes any important difference in the sense or affects any doctrine. Yet it does mean that there are a number of minor differences between the Greek text that most scholars use today and the one that was used by the makers of the King James Version.

It would have been entirely possible for God to have had the Scripture written on tables of stone, preserved in a room kept at constant temperature like the place in Washington where the standard foot measure is kept, so as to retain every letter exactly as it was in the original. It does not seem, however, that this is what He did, since no two manuscripts are exactly alike, though differences are usually of very slight importance. However, the differences in the Greek text used in most recent translations are comparatively slight. Unfortunately many of these versions, such as the Revised Standard Version and the New English Bible, depart very radically, particularly in the Old Testament, from the text that they say they are translating, and at some points make translations that do away with the deity of Christ.

You refer to *The Living Bible -- A Paraphrase* by Taylor. Many parts of this paraphrase are very good. It often makes the sense clearer than a direct translation could, but sometimes, like any paraphrase, it gives the idea of the translator, and thus goes beyond what can be clearly proven from the original.

The Berkeley Version of the New Testament is rather good, particularly in the recent new edition (Zondervan). Its Old Testament version is less good.

I have not myself used the New American Standard Bible as yet. I am told that it sticks very closely to the text, but is somewhat wooden.

I have given some assistance to the New York Bible Society in preparing the NIV translation of the Old Testament.